

British sailors not to peddle stories

by UPI

LONDON - Britain's Ministry of Defense has put a ban on military personnel selling their stories to the media until the rules surrounding the issue are reviewed.

Defense Secretary Des Browne said the review aims to make the rules consistent for all branches of the armed forces, the BBC reported.

The review was launched after two of the 15 members of the Royal Navy who were held captive in Iran sold their stories to media outlets.

Leading Seaman Faye Turney reportedly sold her story to ITV1's Trevor Macdonald and the Sun newspaper for a six-figure sum. Some of that money will be donated to Navy families.

The youngest of the British sailors to be held captive, Arthur Batchelor, 20, told the London Daily Mirror that it was a "nightmare" and that he "cried like a baby" in his cell.

The decision by the Royal Navy to allow the crew to sell their stories to the press has been questioned by politicians, former soldiers and some relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq.

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